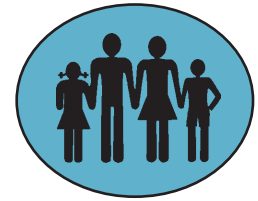


Healthy Maryland PROJECT 2010 NEWSLETTER



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Statewide Summit a Huge Success

200 Gathered to Identify Health Improvement Priorities

“Our collaborations must be extraordinarily broad and our decisions based on the data, if we are to eliminate health disparities and increase years of healthy life,” said **Georges C. Benjamin, M.D.** in his opening greeting at the Healthy Maryland Project 2010 Summit.

Dr. Benjamin, the recently appointed Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), issued this powerful call to action to the more than 200 people assembled to craft a Health Improvement plan for Maryland. His words reflect the mission and goals of the national Healthy People 2010 federal initiative.

The Healthy People initiative identifies the most significant preventable threats to public health and provides a series of measurable objectives to improve the nation’s health by 2010.

Maryland took a major step toward responding to this initiative by hosting a two-day integrated health-planning summit, May 25-26, in Hunt Valley MD.

Participants, including representatives of state and local health departments, academia, and the faith and business communities were presented with a comprehensive slate of activities specially designed to inform, inspire and set the stage for productive breakout planning sessions.



Dr. Georges Benjamin, Secretary

The plenary session opened with **Arlene Stepenson’s** (DHMH Chief of Staff) introduction of **State Delegate Samuel I. “Sandy” Rosenberg** (District 42, Baltimore City). Del. Rosenberg stated that the Summit was “an excellent way to look beyond the next fiscal year in selecting and prioritizing our approach to public health issues.”

Jane Nishida, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment, outlined her department’s efforts to identify and evaluate environmental problems that pose a public health risk.

Citing the prevention of exposure to lead paint, protection of the public drinking water system and improvements in the State’s air quality as key areas of concern, Ms Nishida remarked that the Summit provided an excellent opportunity to gain more input into the integrated planning process.

(Continued on page 2)

“This prevention agenda identifies the most significant threats to health and focuses public and private efforts to address these threats”

– Dr. Carlessia A. Hussein

Statewide Summit Huge Success — continued

Carlessia A. Hussein, Dr.Ph., Director of the DHMH Community and Public Health Administration (CPHA), noted in her history of Healthy People, that the initiative dates back to a 1979 Surgeon General’s report. Dr. Hussein described the project’s health improvement agenda as a “simple, but very powerful idea that incorporates all of the people in all of the communities in this nation.”

Ron Bialek, Executive Director of the Public Health Foundation, in his overview of nationwide Healthy People initiatives, rated Maryland’s efforts high in comparison to those in other states.

Essential to Summit participants’ understanding of the planning task before them was the panel discussion entitled “Measuring Maryland’s Health Status.”

In her introduction of the panelists, Dr. Hussein noted that Maryland had chosen the consensus indicator approach because of its uniformity across the states and the availability of data to measure progress.



Diane Wagener, Ph.D., of the National Center for Health Statistics, began by outlining “Leading Health Indicators”. **Jan Markowitz, Ph.D.**, DHMH Office of Public Health Assessment, **Thressa Lee, M.P.A.**, Health Services Cost Review Commission, and **Isabelle Horon, Dr.Ph.**, Vital Statistics Administration, each provided an expert perspective of the “Science Basis for Objective Setting in Maryland”. **Robert Parker, M.D., M.P.H.**, Health Officer, Washington County, discussed local collaborative efforts in his presentation of “Community Involvement in Setting Priorities”.

As final preparation for the Summit breakout work groups,

Jeanette Jenkins, M.H.S., Director, CPHA Office of Health Policy, reviewed the process for selecting priority indicators, and developing health objectives and action steps. Participants were assigned to one of eight regional groups created for the Summit. The seven regions, plus the State of Maryland were: **Baltimore City, Baltimore Metro** (Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties), **Eastern Shore** (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico and Worcester counties), **Montgomery, Northwest** (Allegany, Frederick, Garrett and Washington counties), **Prince Georges** and **Southern Maryland** (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties).

Healthy Maryland Time Line

September 1998
***Steering Committee
Formed***

October 1998
Council Convened

May 1999
Planning Summit

December 1999
***Health Improvement
Plan***

Day two featured **Delegate John Donohue**, (District 2C, Washington County) as the keynote luncheon speaker. He stressed the importance of addressing financial barriers to medical care when developing long range plans for health services.

After a day-and-a half of breakout sessions, Summit participants reconvened to present their summaries. Acknowledging that the planning process was at times a very challenging assignment, Dr. Hussein invited each group's spokesperson to share their results, comments and recommendations. Spokesperson **Monica Lathan**, of DHMH, **Ronna Gotthanier**, of the Anne Arundel County Health Department, **Jane Apson**, of the Worcester County Health Department, **Allyse Weinstein**, of the Office of Public Health Assessment, **Nathan Blatchley**, of the Western Maryland AHEC, **Stacey Neolms**, of the Maryland Cancer Registry, **Judy Huang**, of the University of Maryland Baltimore County and

John Miller, of the Network to Improve Community Health, each provided thoughtful insights about the Summit for their breakout group. The results of the breakout groups revealed more similarities than differences. Six major categories were of primary concern to participants: 1)**access to health care**, 2)**chronic disease** (including cancer, diabetes and cardi-ovascular disease), 3)**lifestyle risk factors** (including smoking, obesity and lack of physi-



Dr. Hussein and Del. John Donohue

cal activity), 4) **injury** (intentional and unintentional) 5) **special populations** (including children and seniors) and 6) **special needs** (including the environment, mental health and substance abuse).

During the open microphone segment, several health officers voiced their support for Project 2010 and expressed their appreciation of the Summit. A strong interest in continuing the discussions and efforts begun at the Summit was stated by a number of participants.

The Summit closed with an outline of the next steps for the Healthy Maryland Project. They include: preparation and wide distribution of the Summit report, provision of support for health planning initiative in local areas throughout the state, promotion of improvements in data collection, dissemination and technological applications and the development of a process for a Health Improvement Plan to chart and coordinate address of statewide and local needs. ■

Dr. David Satcher's Invitation

First Health Promotion Conference of New Century

United States Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher extends an invitation to join in the "**Partnerships for Health in the New Millennium**" conference celebrating the launch of Healthy People 2010, January 24-28, 2000 in Washington, DC. This will be the first national health promotion conference of the new century focusing on these four themes: 1) Partnering for Health Improvements, 2) Eliminating Health Disparities, 3) Increasing Quality and Years of Healthy Life and 4) Harnessing Technology for Health. (*continued on back page*)

(Dr. Satcher continued)

In addition to the plenary sessions, other important features of the conference will be the breakout, caucus and poster sessions. This promises to be an invaluable opportunity to share information and network. Everyone is encouraged to submit an abstract for these sessions.

Capitalize on this opportunity to highlight your organization's successes and accomplishments. The call for abstracts can be found on the conference Web site: www.health.gov/partnerships, or through the Healthy People toll free number: 800-367-4725. Conference, exhibitor and registration information are available on the Web site.

The "Partnership for Health in the New Millennium" conference is being convened by the Healthy People Consortium and the Partnership for Networked Consumer Health Information. The conference is expected to draw over 1200 participants from public and private health care organizations, academic and research institutions, technology companies, state, local and federal government agencies and the faith community.■

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